



From the Business Manager:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you are all doing well considering the Pandemic that has been sweeping the world. As you know work is pretty slow and the sooner we get this under control the sooner we will be back working. All those that are on unemployment right now should be receiving the extra \$600 per week from the large stimulus package passed by congress and the stimulus checks should start arriving if you direct deposited your 2019 taxes.

For those of you working right know the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission has recently approved protection under Comp Law to protect workers that are exempt from the "Stay at Home" requirement by Gov. Pritzker Executive Order 20-10, if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 and it can be a rebuttable presumption that it's causally connected to their employment. Keep that in mind while working. If you are not feeling well, you should not go to work and many companies (if they are reputable) are giving a lay off and asked not to return for 2 weeks.

Many jobs that were coming are being pushed due to the virus and the fact that the infected numbers are not slowing very much. I do believe once they get a handle on this, work will come back. We just need to hang in there.

Many of you know this is a contract year and at our last meeting in February we established the 4th person to the Negotiating Committee, which was Brother Nick Helm. I reached out to the Contractors and set up a day to meet, while following the Social Distancing criteria. We met and settled our contract. Since we are not having meetings due to the current pandemic we are having, the International gave us permission to have the contract approved by the Executive Board.

The contract approved by the Executive Board:

- Updating the to a more comprehensive signature page with more information required of the contractor.
- A correction that was adopted from a prior year negotiation that was missed during that years reprinting. Item 30
- Updated Wage and Benefit Schedule with current information and 4-year Apprentice Program
- \$2.50 per year for 3 years, with the first year including a contribution of .25 cents to the 498 DB in light of the current market activity.
- The Foreman Schedule raised 2%. Small Foreman 7%, Large Foreman 12%, and General Foreman 17%

As for the allocation the International also recommended the Executive Board to come up with the allocations for the membership to vote on (by mail).

Funding requirements:

- Tri-State Health and Welfare - .25 cents
- 498 Defined Benefit - .25 cents (as part of the agreement)
- JATC - .10 cents to keep the fund flush and for growing the program.
- Defense Fund - .10 cents to keep the fund flush and to target more as nonunion works against us.
- \$1.80 balance to allocate.

Executive Board Options, with the recommendation for Option 1.

Allocation June 1, 2020	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Trio State Health & Welfare	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25
498 Defined Benefit Pension	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25	\$ 0.25
Training Program	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10
Defense Fund	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10
Check	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.65	\$ 0.50
Mid America SMA (John Hancock)	\$ 1.05	\$ 1.15	\$ 1.30
Total	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50

We will be mailing out ballots on April 17th, 2020. It will be a double envelope ballot. There will be two envelopes in the mailer and a ballot. You must be current at time of Ballot counting by the Trustees.

Process will be as follows:

- On ballot chose **ONLY ONE** option Box 1, 2, or 3. **Any other markings or commentary will result in a spoiled ballot.**
- Fold and insert into envelope marked "Ballot Envelope" and seal.
- Insert Sealed Ballot Envelope into postage paid envelope with Local 498 address label.
- Write your return address as you normally would. Trustees will verify you are current on dues.
- As letters come in, they will be left unopened and put in a locked Ballot Box. Only key will be in possession of Trustee.
- **Ballots must be postmarked no later than May 8th.**
- The 3 trustees will come in and verify members are current on dues.
- All ballots will be opened once all members participating in the vote are verified current on dues to ensure the secret ballot is adhered to.
- Ballots will be tabulated and verified by the trustees.
- Results will be sent out.

Let's hope we get this virus under control shortly and we get back to what we are the best at, Building America!

Stay safe out there practice our "Social Distancing", wash your hands regularly, and be careful when you have to be around people.

In Solidarity

Mark Richeson

Be Safe



From the Organizer/Recording Secy.

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Hope all is well with you and your families. As you know work has slowed down due to the Amazon slow down, the shutdown at Byron ending, and COVID-19 protocols. The non-union contractors' work has also slowed down, but they're presence is always going to be there whether we like it or not. CCI for one is still forging ahead with a lot of projects around Beloit, and even around our local. CCI has used some of our contractors on a few projects over the last couple of years and I think they see the value in our well trained and safety conscientious members. Keep up the good work and you will see them using us more and more. Also, on the north side of Janesville Commonwealth Construction has a job where Koenig Concrete has the foundation. I reached out to them about using some of our members on this project, but they were not interested, however Koenig did want a list of our reinforcing contractors. After sending them the list I am hopeful they will use one of our signatory contractors. At the Amazon job in Beloit a company called Indiana Industrial Services is installing the racks. I got in touch with them and they told me to go through the G.C. Mark had a good contact with Ryan Companies, but it looks like it is not going to work out.

Up at Riverside Energy there is a fence outfit that has been doing work called Northway Fence. They have been doing work for about a week and a half, and will have more work once the trailers are all moved, and the parking lot goes in. I have been in contact with them about using us. I will keep working on them so we can get something worked out. I did have a small win at the Kwik Trip in Delavan, getting a guy on with Story Facia after finding out they had the canopy. They didn't know that our local went up into Wisconsin.

Among the ones I have mentioned there are a few more that I have talked too also. Some are willing to talk, and others don't want to give me a minute of their time. I will continue to talk with contractors about putting our members to work and keep our market share.

I learn more and more about this position every day and am lucky to have people like Mark Richeson, Ben Scoggins, and Vince DiDonato to reach out to for guidance and advice. As always feel free to contact me at 815-721-3058 with any questions or concerns regarding jobs around our local.

In Solidarity,
Keith Gahl



Apprenticeship Coordinator

Dear Brothers, and Sisters,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and healthy in this current time of unprecedented circumstances.

As all of you know the Apprenticeship Classes have been postponed due to the Stay at Home Order issued by Governor Pritzker. We will be following the order as long as it is in place. The Apprentices need to understand that once the order is lifted we will resume classes where they left off, so be prepared to finish this semester even if it doesn't start back up till mid-summer (I hope).

We did cancel the April 4th Weld Test and the Test scheduled for May 16th is still on the calendar, but that is subject to change.

We had scheduled an OSHA 30 class for the end of this month and the begging of May that will also have to be rescheduled.

If you send in your continuity log book for recertification be aware that the International has stated that they will not be sending out new cards as of right now because they are all working from home in Washington. They will update your certs, but the cards will be sent out at a later date.

While we're on the topic of weld certs there have been a couple of Journeymen that had their certification renewals rejected because of improper dates. This is a new one so I will explain the best I can.

If the dates you put in the first six months, and the dates that you put in the second six months are more than six months apart from each other they will not renew your certification.

An example would be if your expiration date was in January and you have your first six months signed in February then have your second six months signed in November those two dates would be nine months apart. I hope this makes sense, if not give me or Dean a call and we'll try to explain it better.

I made a couple of phone calls and was told that they are getting picky about the dates and that this would be the norm moving forward.

In solidarity,
Paul Kauffman

Local 498 Calendar

Weld Test – Tentatively May 16, 2020

All group meetings and classes
Cancelled until further notice

No New Death Benefit Information

